

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A foldable portable telephone having first and second casings coupled with each other via a hinge portion, comprising:

first and second electronic circuit portions provided within said first and second casings, respectively; and

5 first and second shield members for shielding said first and second electronic circuit portions, respectively,

at least one of said first and second shield members additionally serving as an antenna for said portable telephone.

2. The portable telephone according to claim 1, wherein said first electronic circuit portion includes a communication circuit for communicating with a base station using said second shield member as the antenna.

3. The portable telephone according to claim 2, wherein said second shield member includes a slit for adjusting its characteristics as the antenna.

4. The portable telephone according to claim 2, wherein said second shield member includes an extended portion for adjusting its characteristics as the antenna.

5. The portable telephone according to claim 2, further comprising an antenna matching circuit connected between said communication circuit and said second shield member.

6. The portable telephone according to claim 2, further comprising:  
a first antenna matching circuit for matching when said portable telephone is unfolded;

5 a second antenna matching circuit for matching when said portable telephone is folded;

a detector for detecting whether said portable telephone is folded;  
and

10 a switching circuit operating based on a detected result of said  
detector, for connecting said first antenna matching circuit between said  
communication circuit and said second shield member when said portable  
telephone is unfolded, and for connecting said second antenna matching  
circuit between said communication circuit and said second shield member  
when said portable telephone is folded.

7. The portable telephone according to claim 2, further comprising  
an antenna mounted to said first casing and having its feeding portion  
connected to said communication circuit,

5 said communication circuit communicating with said base station  
via said second shield member and said antenna.

8. The portable telephone according to claim 2, further comprising  
an antenna mounted to said second casing and having its feeding portion  
connected to said second shield member,

5 said communication circuit communicating with said base station  
via said second shield member and said antenna.

9. The portable telephone according to claim 8, further comprising  
a matching circuit for said antenna that is connected between said second  
shield member and the feeding portion of said antenna.

10. The portable telephone according to claim 2, further  
comprising:

an antenna mounted to said first casing;

5 a detector for detecting whether a hand of a user of said portable  
telephone is touching said antenna; and

a switching circuit operating based on a detected result of said  
detector, for connecting said communication circuit to said antenna when  
said user's hand is not touching said antenna, and for connecting said

10 communication circuit to said second shield member when said user's hand is touching said antenna,

said communication circuit communicating with said base station via either one of said antenna and said second shield member that is connected to said communication circuit by said switching circuit.